



# ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

**Monday, February 10, 2020  
6:00pm  
SUB 6-06**

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

## **ATTENDANCE**

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Permanent Members			
Nathan Sunday (chair)		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
Katherine Belcourt		Y	
Luke Statt		N	
Adam Brown		Y	
Andrew Volk		N	
Sean Gray		N	
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		N	
Marc Dumouchel		Y	

## **MINUTES (ARRC-2019-16)**

**2019-16/1     INTRODUCTION**

**2019-16/1a     Call to Order**  
SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2019-16/1b     Approval of Agenda**

**2019-16/1c**     **Approval of Minutes**

**2019-16/1d**     **Chair's Business**

SUNDAY: Considered inviting an Elder to Council or the Committee to do a prayer with the incoming and outgoing Students' Union Executives.

**2019-16/2**     **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2019-16/3**     **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2019-16/3a**     Indigenous Student Policy

VARGAS ALBA: Expressed concern that Policy Committee does not have time left within the term to restructure the Policy. Noted that he added a definition and resources section to the bottom of the Policy. Suggested not defining any terms which are not found within the Policy. Proposed, instead of restructuring the Policy, adding a Fact that recognizes that First Nations, Metis, and Inuit are distinct peoples.

BELCOURT: Proposed that the Policy define Students' Union and the University of Alberta.

VARGAS ALBA: Determined to bring the Policy forward to First Reading at Council.

**2019-16/3b**     Climate Action Policy

SUNDAY: Determined To table this item until the next meeting.

**2019-16/3c**     Consultation & Engagement Bylaw

SUNDAY: Noted that he consulted the President and General Manager on the Bylaw.

DUMOUCHEL: Proposed removing the term 'at least' in Section 1(h) as it may require overly onerous consultation. Suggested that, if consultation is overly onerous, the Bylaw will not be followed. Proposed that the Bylaw only require the Students' Union to engage Aboriginal students on issues that impact them materially/disproportionately in ways that are different from students as a whole. Proposed merging Sections 4 (Directives) and 6 (Consultation) to reduce uncertainty and redundancy. Proposed removing the requirement to follow the 'Student Participation Handbook' in Section 4(7). Expressed concern that reviewing advocacy every two years is insufficient as in Section 5(1). Proposed deleting Section 6 Confidentiality and Access to Confidential Information. Expressed concern that Section 7 does not make clear that matters that are general to the operations of the Students' Union are not bound by the Bylaw.

BROWN: Suggested that, in future, the Executive could hide information from Council and students. Suggested that Council would discipline Executives who withhold information from them.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into how Sunday sees a future chair of the Committee acting on the Bylaw.

SUNDAY: Responded that he will provide good quality transition documents.

DUMOUCHEL: Proposed, moving forward, providing councillors greater compensation and support.

BROWN: Expressed concern that one cannot hold unpaid volunteers to account for their work.

SUNDAY: Proposed that Dumouchel provide the Committee an amended version of the Bylaw document containing his changes.

BELCOURT: Inquired as to who would determine whether an issue is material to Aboriginal students.

DUMOUCHEL: Suggested that the Committee could set a listing of topics within the Bylaw.

BROWN: Considered that the Students' Union could adopt a data-driven approach to determining whether an issue affects Aboriginal to a greater extent.

SUNDAY: Outlined that the purpose of the Bylaw is to enable students to hold the Students' Union to account in consulting students.

BELCOURT: Suggested that there have been moments where the Students' Union withheld information from Students' Council.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed that the Bylaw make clear that Aboriginal students are also impacted by issues that are general student population.

DUMOUCHEL: Emphasised that the Students' Union has a moral obligation to consult students on issues that affect them. Determined to present his changes in an edited document. Suggested that the Bylaw provide that the Committee review the Executive Goals Document.

BROWN: Noted that the Executive goals change annually and drive the operations of the Students' Union.

**2019-16/3d** Meetings (Increase to Once a Week)

BELCOURT: Inquired as to the total number of meetings this would add for the Committee.

BROWN: Responded that it would add two or three meetings.

SUNDAY: Determined to relay the changes in the Committee's meeting schedule to the Council Administrative Assistant.

**2019-16/4**     **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2019-16/5**     **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.

**2019-16/5a**     **Next Meeting:** TBD